Natural Disaster Education Rapid Response

Project Title	Natural Disaster Education Rapid Response
Project Summary	Develop and promote an educational response to natural disasters that puts both scientists and lesson plans into classrooms with 24-48 hours of an event. Work with an interagency team of federal agencies and nonprofits to design and implement this new collaborative initiative.
Country	United States

Project Description

Every year people and the environment are affected by a variety of natural disasters, which spark fascination, curiosity, and reflection on how humans interact with the Earth. We believe that these natural phenomena can be used as a way to draw young people into meaningful learning experiences. Our plan is to develop a system so that within 24 hours of a major earthquake, volcanic eruption, flood, hurricane, or other disaster, a notice can be sent to educators that a set of teaching materials has been posted online at multiple federal science agencies and non-profit partners. Within 48 hours a series of Scientist-in-the-Classroom sessions would be scheduled and promoted so that kids and their teachers can ask the experts about these events directly and/or send questions via e-mail that will be responded to promptly.

The USGS is working on this project along with the American Geosciences Institute, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and several other federal and non-profit science and educational organizations. Among us we have a large collection of teaching materials about natural disasters. We expect an intern to find the best resources available for each type of disaster and pre-package them into learning resource modules addressing specific content. This will involve working with education staff at the collaborating organizations to create a framework for these resource modules and possibly develop new content where there are gaps. While the primary focus is on science, links may also be made to English/language arts (e.g., informational text strategies), social studies (e.g., civic engagement), and other subjects.

At the same time, we will be working to identify scientists who are experts in fields related to each type of natural hazard event who will agree to be on call for live, interactive classroom sessions via the Internet. An intern might also be involved in creating the framework for that piece. The intern will be addressing questions such as:

- How do we package and deploy resources so they are accessible to teachers?
- How do we maintain our database of on-call experts?
- How can we rapidly schedule Scientists-in-the-Classroom sessions?
- How might we best run, record, and quickly archive the online classroom sessions?
- What will be effective ways to get the word out about the resources?
- How might we document and improve the processes moving forward?

We can be fairly sure there will be a natural disaster of some sort during the internship year, so we may be able

to implement some of the products interns complete. This internship offers the opportunity to work with people from multiple organizations and gain a deep understanding of what is offered in educational resources. It would be appropriate for either an earth science major, a science education major, or an education major in any subject area who has a strong interest in integrating that area’s content with

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)
Editing and proofreading
Educational design
Research
Storytelling/blogging/vlogging

Additional Information

None

Language Requirements

None